

Nunes honors Portugal's support of U.S.

The House of Representatives passed a resolution authored by Rep. Devin Nunes honoring the government of Portugal and its people for its long-standing friendship and support of the United States.

Rep. Nunes submitted the resolution on behalf of himself, as well as Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Tracy, and Rep. Dennis Cardoza, D-Merced. The three congress-

men are of Portuguese descent.

The resolution praises Portugal for being a "devout, resolute, and steadfast ally of the United States" in peace time and in armed conflict.

"The Portuguese people have committed a full array of their country's resources to fight the terrorist threat all over the world," Nunes' resolution said.

Rep. Nunes explained his reason for submitting the resolution.

"In a time when alliances between the United States and its allies in the rest of the world are being put to the test in the war on terror, it's important to recognize those countries who continue to stand by the US," Rep. Nunes said.

Drug war: Up close and personal

Rep. Devin Nunes dispatched two of his staff members to accompany Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on a recent raid of a marijuana garden in Sequoia National Park.

Marijuana gardens are a persistent problem in the national parks and forests of Tulare County.

The agents have long worked in concert with local authorities to eradicate the illegal gardens. The agents flew a Blackhawk helicopter to track suspects and find gardens obscured by trees. This raid netted 13,000 plants with an estimated street value of \$53.8 million.



Above: A Blackhawk helicopter with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) lands at Ash Mountain Helipad in Sequoia National Park. Right: Nunes' Homeland Security representative John Gong asks the pilot a question.



Left: The ICE helicopter hovers over a canyon in Sequoia National Park where a marijuana garden was found growing under the canopy of trees. The Blackhawk helicopter is an essential tool in helping locate the illegal plantations, as well as tracking the people who cultivate them.

